



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

FACTS ABOUT: WINCHESTER VILLAGE/BULLET STREET

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION WINCHESTER VILLAGE/BULLET ST GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION PORT DEPOSIT, CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND MDE CASE NO. 1988-1718-CE

SITE LOCATION

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Oil Control Program (OCP) continues to evaluate petroleum impacts to residential drinking water wells located in the Winchester Village development in Port Deposit, Cecil County. The area is primarily residential.

SITE HISTORY

The development was originally farmland, owned by A.C. Winchester, and transferred to his son Albert J. Winchester in 1985. Mr. Winchester sold most of the property to the Montgomery Brothers Construction Company in the late 1980s. Montgomery Brothers Construction subdivided the property for residential development.

The MDE was first notified of petroleum impacts to a private drinking water well at 15 Bullet Street in June 1988. Sampling by the developer revealed benzene at the drinking water standard of 5 parts per billion (ppb). The developer contacted the MDE-OCP to report the contamination. Cecil County Health Department (CECHD) subsequently instituted a sampling program for select residential homes in the area. CECHD also placed a moratorium on future development.

The property located adjacent to and upgradient of 15 Bullet Street, 1908 Hopewell Road, is occupied by the old farmhouse. This property once had a 275-gallon gasoline underground storage tank (UST). The UST was located about 75 feet from the drinking water well at 15 Bullet Street. The developer removed the UST and an MDE inspector observed perforations in the tank during the removal. A Notice of Violation was issued to Albert J. Winchester in May 1990, requiring the installation of three groundwater monitoring wells. The MDE-OCP issued a Complaint and Order in January 1991 to Albert J. Winchester, levied a fine of \$20,000 and ordered that a hydrogeological study be conducted. In May 1991, the MDE withdrew the Complaint and Order because there was no evidence to show Winchester was the owner of the property at the time of the discharge, and the size of the UST was under the regulated 1,100-gallon limit for farm tanks.

The State assumed responsibility for further investigation and, in August 1994, installed a monitoring well on the property at 1908 Hopewell Road. A strong gasoline odor from the borehole was observed during monitoring well installation. Gauging of the monitoring well detected 1.5 inches of liquid phase hydrocarbons (LPH). No LPH was detected in the well during gauging events in 1999 or 2011. In January 1990, the resident at 15 Bullet Street drilled a new well and analytical results have been non-detect for petroleum-related



compounds. Residents at 14 and 22 Bullet Street also had new wells drilled in June 1993 with petroleum contaminants levels decreasing at 22 Bullet Street, but no change in petroleum contaminant levels at 14 Bullet Street. In September 1993, CECHD issued approval to Montgomery Brothers Inc. to develop the remaining four properties in the subdivision.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS AND ACTIONS

To date, the CECHD and MDE have sampled 20 drinking water wells in the area. MDE installed and/or maintained granular activated carbon (GAC) filter systems at five properties based on sampling results. As contaminant trends were established and contaminant concentrations decreased, MDE removed GAC systems or transferred ownership of the system to the homeowners as appropriate.

The monitoring well at 1908 Hopewell Road was last gauged and sampled by MDE in February 2011. At that time, no LPH was present. The groundwater sample indicated the presence of benzene, toluene, 1,2-dibromoethane, and naphthalene present at levels in exceedance of MDE groundwater standards. The well was properly abandoned under the oversight of MDE's environmental contractor in September 2011.

CURRENT STATUS

Based on sampling results, MDE continues to sample and maintain the GAC filter systems at 14 Bullet Street and 30 Bullet Street.

FUTURE UPDATES

- Postings available on www.mde.maryland.gov
- File available at MDE-OCP headquarters in Baltimore.

CONTACTS

- Oil Control Program: (410) 537-3442 or (800) 633-6101 x3442
- Cecil County Health Department: 410-996-5550

DISCLAIMER

The intent of this fact sheet is to provide the reader a summary of site events as they are contained within documents available to the MDE. To fully understand the site and surrounding environmental conditions, the MDE recommends that the reader review the case file, which can be requested through the Public Information Act. The inclusion of a person or company's name within this fact sheet is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a conclusion by the MDE on liability, involvement in a wrongful act, or contribution to environmental damage.